

For Feb/March WaterMatters (small update box)

Supreme Court hears arguments in S-9 case

In a historic event with nationwide implications, legal arguments were presented to the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., January 14 by lawyers representing the South Florida Water Management District and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians. The S-9 case will define precisely who the U.S. Congress intended to target when it passed the Clean Water Act in the early 1970s.

“The intent of the law is aimed squarely at industrial polluters who actively add contaminants to the nation’s water; not to public water agencies merely moving water throughout an interconnected system for public good,” said District Governing Board Chair Nicolás Gutiérrez. “In addition, a needless permit-by-permit regulatory approach would provide no additional environmental benefit and, in fact, could delay and even derail the Congressionally approved plan to restore and revitalize America’s Everglades.”

A ruling is expected this spring.

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